

## Economic Growth Region 7 Summary

Economic Growth Region 7 is located in west central Indiana. The six counties in Region 7 include: Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo. The Terre Haute Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is located in this region. Clay, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties join to form the Terre Haute MSA. Parke County is known as the Covered Bridge Capital of the World. Vigo County is a regional shopping hub for western Indiana and eastern Illinois, employing thousands of people in the retail sector.

Region 7's population for 2007 was 223,529, down 0.3 percent from the 2000 Census total. During this time period, Indiana's total 2007 estimated population of 6,345,289 was up by 4.4 percent. Vigo and Putnam are the two most populous counties in the region with 104,915 and 37,014 residents respectively. Clay and Putnam counties accounted for the largest population gains in the region between 2000 and 2007. County seats in the region are: Terre Haute in Vigo County, Brazil in Clay County, Rockville in Parke County, Greencastle in Putnam County, Sullivan in Sullivan County and Newport in Vermillion County.

Based on Indiana Department of Revenue Indiana IT-40 returns a total of 25,396 workers or 18.4 percent of the workforce commuted into Region 7 in 2007. Illinois sent the most workers into the region. Conversely, 28,073 or 20 percent of the labor force commuted to work outside of the region. Marion County received the most workers from Region 7.

In 2007, an average annual of 4,735 firms provided an estimated 85,346 jobs within the region. Three major industry sectors, education & health services (includes public schools and medical facilities), government and trade, transportation & utilities dominated the region in terms of employment. These three industry sectors accounted for 64 percent of the region's 2007 industry employment. The largest employing industry in the region was education & health services (both public and private) which had 21,915 jobs or 26 percent of the total industry employment. The industry showing the most growth in jobs since 2001 was education & health services, increasing 2,414 jobs or 12.4 percent.

The 2007 all-industry average earnings for Region 7 were \$31,622, up \$4,959 or 18.6 percent over the region's 2001 average. The State of Indiana's all-industry annual average was \$37,528. In Region 7, manufacturing had the highest average earnings at \$43,996 per year in 2007. The State's manufacturing industry wage averaged \$51,144 in 2007. Annual earnings at area financial institutions increased the most between 2001 and 2007, up \$7,776 to \$33,897 or 29.8%.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

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